

Public Services

Police



Stable for the horses of the Police's mounted patrol off of Blue Hills Drive

Hollins/Wildwood is not a high crime area. Based on calls for service data compiled by the Police Department, the area falls in the lower half of districts within the City for total calls. Most crime in the area is domestic or property related, and residents cited overall safety as one of their neighborhood's best attributes.

In 2004 the Police Department replaced the COPE (Community Oriented Policing Effort) units with Geographic Policing. Under the Geographic Policing initiative, the City is demarcated into four police response zones. Hollins/Wildwood is within Zone 2.

Each zone is assigned a police lieutenant who serves as zone commander. The lieutenant is assisted by sergeants who are responsible for day-to-day supervision of patrol officers. Patrol functions include community policing, school resource officers, personnel assignments and response to citizen concerns. Each zone also contains a Community Resource Officer, who is responsible for facilitating community policing and problem-solving initiatives throughout the zone. The Community Resource Officer involves each officer in resolving quality of life and community policing issues.

Fire/EMS

Fire Station Number 14 is on Mecca Street. A new fire engine that also has ladder capability is assigned to the station. The Fire/EMS Strategic Business Plan recommends future improvements to the station to continue its operation. Station Number 14 is one of the newer stations in the City and is listed in the plan as the lowest in terms of maintenance needs.

Code Enforcement

Residents addressed concerns with frequent code violations, particularly junk storage and inoperable vehicles. Housing maintenance has not been a significant issue, though some of the older housing may need more attention to ensure its preservation.

Code enforcement functions are undergoing continuous improvement with better strategies, staffing levels, and strengthened ordinances. Although Hollins/Wildwood is not especially problematic, it needs increased enforcement activity by code enforcement inspectors, particularly in the Hollins neighborhood.



Code enforcement is an increasing concern in the area



Other Public Services

The Roanoke Valley Resource Authority's Tinker Creek Transfer Station at 1020 Hollins Road is a regional solid waste transfer station. The Authority is a partnership between the City, Roanoke County, Vinton, and Norfolk Southern. The three valley localities generate 700 tons of waste every day. Each locality collects its own trash, using its own equipment. After collection, refuse trucks deliver the trash to the Tinker Creek Transfer Station, where waste is loaded into rail cars. Each rail car holds 65 tons of waste, making them among the largest on the railroad. At the end of the day, all waste collected and loaded into the rail cars is transported 16½ miles by Norfolk Southern's Waste Line Express to the landfill. The City provides automated refuse and recycling collection throughout the area.

Despite the large land mass of the Hollins/Wildwood area, the population is too small and dispersed to support a school or library. Residents voiced support for more public facilities, such as a post office, schools, or police station.

Public Services Issues

- Increased need for code enforcement
- Lack of public service facilities such as a post office, library, and schools



The Tinker Creek Transfer Station